



40 Years of the Hunters Hill Sailing Club

1961 – An Idea is Born

In a casual meeting at the Woolwich Pier Hotel, Keith Dreverman and Dick Grant discussed the idea of creating a sailing club in the Hunters Hill area over a few ales. From this humble beginning our club was to develop. A more formal meeting was convened on the 31st of January 1961 at the home of Peter Dent and the ideas took a more definite form.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31st JANUARY, 1961.

AT PETER DENTS.

PRESENT:

Messrs. R. Grant, I. Hamilton, P. Dent, B. Stevens, B. Lloyd,
W. Cockell and W. Smith. J McHALE.

PUBLIC MEETING:

Tuesday or Wednesday in 3 weeks.
2 advertisements to be inserted in 2 weeks before meeting.
Persons who are interested at Public Meeting to give their names.

Building similar to Mosman open sailing club.
Architect Bruce Vicary to be approached by R. Grant for sketches, floorplan, approximate cost of club at Mosman/Seaforth.

Club to be not restrictive as to members domicile (H.H. Municipality) in the initial stages.

NANCE:

Council to assist - in what fashion?
Council are sympathetic but will be approached after the general meeting of sailing club and requested to consider proposition and advise whether their assistance would be by way of grant or loan or part of each.

R. Grant to check on membership fees and shed rent at other clubs before general meeting.

Representatives of neighbourhood clubs to be invited to our general meeting.

Dr. Greg Cutler to be approached to chair Public Meeting.
Jim McHale to make approach.

Brian Lloyd to be Secretary for the Public Meeting.

Club open to both sexes.

No liquor licence to be obtained and no liquor to be on premises except with permission of committee for a social function.

At the Public Meeting it is considered a good idea to have a period of general discussion on types of boats available, prices new and second hand and safety aspect.

Many nights were spent discussing the possible form such a club should take, its potential location etc. The next formal meeting consolidated many of these ideas. Approaches to the council needed to be made to establish their thoughts on potential locations and all was not as simple as it might at first appear.

PROPOSED HUNTERS HILL OPEN SAILING CLUB

Minutes of
2nd Meeting

Meeting held on 2/3/61 at the home of Peter Dent Esq.

PRESENT: Dr. Greg Cutler, Keith Sobells, Ian Hamilton, Peter Dent
Bruce Stevens, Dick Grant, Jim McPhail, Keith Dreverman,
Bill Smith, Brian Lloyd.

1. Meeting opened with discussion on the objects of the club, particularly for the benefit and information of newly interested participants. Dr. Greg Cutler tentatively agreed to act as President and Chairman to the stage of the Public Meeting to be later held to seek the views of the interested members of the Municipality.
2. Meeting agreed that The Municipal Council be written to before the Public Meeting and advised that such a meeting was to be called and that if sufficient support was received, members would ask the Council for their support and the use of the public space at the foot of Angelo Street, Woolwich. Pending the public meeting Council to be requested to reserve the right of first approach for use of this space. No further action to be taken in respect of the Public Meeting until a reply is received for Council.
3. It was agreed that Representatives of the three other sailing clubs on the River be invited to attend our next meeting so that we might obtain their reaction to our proposal and the benefit of their advice.
4. Dick Grant advised that he has brought an Architect to the site, sought his opinion and asked him to draw up sketch plans. Meeting decided that as we are not sure that the Angelo Street site would be available and different plans would be required for any other site, Architect be asked to defer the drawing up of sketch plans. Nevertheless, members agreed that fees to the extent of £60- be authorised in due course.
Proposition at this stage for the clubhouse is as follows:
Generally with the long side and ramp facing West - Double doors on West side - Single storey with flat roof -
60ft x 40ft - Built of Bessar Block ends and back - Cost per ft. 10/- but with some dissension and suggestion that £4000- be possible.
5. Dick Grant advised that the Mosman club members were paying 10/-d. per week. Members at meeting advised that this would be too much for our club.
6. Greg Cutler and Jim McPhail proposed that objects of the proposed club be varied to include reference to the younger community and after some discussion it was agreed by the meeting that the following sentence be added:
'The Club would have as one of its objects the training of juniors of the district in the correct handling and use of sailing boats.'

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A meeting was held with Council in May 1961 to discuss the potential sites of Angelo St and Collingwood St. Not all local residents were in agreement with these early potential sites however.

"The Weekly Times"

20/12/1961

PROPOSED SAILING CLUB AT WOOLWICH

Quite a deal of activity and discussion has taken place regarding this proposal in recent weeks and from letters received by the Hunter's Hill Council, it would appear that the matter is not entirely one-sided.

Several people, while not opposing in principle the formation of a Sailing Club, and in fact, welcoming it, have expressed the strongest possible objection to the use of Angelo Street as a site for the proposed clubhouse.

However, as yet, no firm decision has been made in this matter and those interested are fully prospecting the Municipality in an attempt to secure the most suitable site.

SAILING CLUBHOUSE AT WOOLWICH

Earlier in the present year a group of enthusiasts approached Hunter's Hill Council regarding formation of a Sailing Club at Woolwich and the provision of a boathouse at the northern extremity of Angelo Street.

Various discussions have taken place and the Council has inspected the area, but to date nothing in the nature of a final decision has been reached.

The Council has indicated that it would be prepared to consider certain specified developments in this area, but has also pointed out that there are many difficulties in the way, including the fact that no portion of a public road may be closed and disposed of, except with the consent of the Minister for Lands.

Normally it can only be sold to an adjoining owner.

It seems hardly likely that the Council would be prepared to finance the building of the clubhouse, and therein may lay the real problem facing the enthusiasts.

It would be necessary for them to raise the necessary finance themselves.

To further complicate the position, quite a number of letters have been received by the Council protesting against any suggestion to alienate any portion of this roadway which, it is claimed, has been greatly improved by the Council and provides a very nice picnic area for many people.

WEEKLY TIMES

4/10/61

A public meeting was decided upon to canvass opinion on the idea of establishing a club and the date was set as Tuesday 28th November, 1961.

***PUBLIC
MEETING***
**HUNTER'S HILL JUNIOR
SAILING CLUB**

A meeting of those interested in the
formation of the above Club will be held
in the

R.S.L. HALL, HUNTER'S HILL

TUESDAY, 28th NOVEMBER, 1961

at 8 p.m.

The aims of the Club are:—

To provide training and storage facilities
for the young people of the Hunter's Hill
district interested in Sailing.

PARENTS:

This is for your children — Come and
give your views.

TEENAGERS:

This is for you — Come and discuss.

Dr. H. McGregor chaired this meeting which attracted some 130 people. Discussion ranged widely, particularly about the location of the club. There was even a proposal that it be located within the grounds of the Hunters Hill High School. The chairman brought the meetings focus back to establishing a club and not where the club should be based. The motion was eventually put that a sailing club to be known as "The Hunters Hill Junior Sailing Club" be formed. This was carried and OUR CLUB WAS FORMED!

Dick Grant was elected as the first President.

MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING AT R.S.L. HALL,
HUNTERS HILL AT 8 P.M. ON 28TH NOVEMBER, 1961

Preamble

The above meeting was called in terms of formation committee's decision to seek the feeling of the residents of the Hunters Hill Municipality as to the wisdom of forming a sailing club in the area. The matter was publicised in the local paper and every house-holder in the Municipality was served with a notice announcing the meeting.

The meeting was attended by approximately 130 residents, of which it is estimated that 60% were adult and 40% juniors.

Proceedings

Dr. H. McGregor Cutler chaired the meeting and gave an address on the origins and reasons for the formation of the meeting. He then called for comments from the audience and following is a summation of pertinent enquiries raised:-

- Alderman Cathro
- Q. Confined to residents of Hunters Hill?
 - A. Don't know if possible but residents of Hunters Hill first preference.
 - Q. Cost?
 - A. £4,000 to £4,500 - difficult but not impossible.
 - Q. Break away from Lane Cove Club?
 - A. No - definitely.
 - Q. What are Juniors?
 - A. Don't know, to be decided.
 - Q. What about Seniors also - you require seniors to assist.
 - A. Perhaps so - we will consider that.
- Miss Kinsela
- Q. Should club house be elsewhere? Annoying to neighbours. Have other sites been explored?
 - A. Perhaps so - nothing definite but it did appear to originators that Angelo St. would seem best.

Bill King

Q. Oration on sailing.
A. Ovation.

Q. Information on whether Parramatta River side would be better.
A. Angelo St. site is nicely protected from southerly and suitable for juniors. Parramatta River side more dangerous.

Q. Could the co-operation of schools be obtained and perhaps use portion of Hunters Hill High School?

A. Perhaps, but primarily we desire to know whether meeting does wish to start a club. Site would be considered by committee.

Q. Boys and girls?
A. Yes!

1. A motion was put to the meeting that a Junior Sailing Club be formed in Hunters Hill, the motion was seconded and discussion followed.
2. One of the audience raised the point that it was essential that senior be in any club, even though the club might primarily be intended for juniors, so that adequate supervision and training could be maintained. He thereupon proposed an amendment, which was seconded, that "Hunters Hill Amateur Sailing Club" be formed in Hunters Hill.

3. The original mover, in agreement with the amendment and with the consent of his seconder, withdrew his original motion.

4. Mr. Cathro then raised the point that the motion was not in order because the meeting was called to form a Junior Sailing Club and this was the only motion that could be put before the meeting. In discussion it was generally agreed that to save time the meeting had no objection basically to any alteration in the name but nevertheless a further amendment was moved and seconded that the motion be altered back to a club called "Hunters Hill Junior Sailing Club" being formed.

5. Voting was held on this motion and carried.

Nomination for Committee

President

Nominations were called for President. Dr. McGregor was nominated but apologised for not being able to accept this office. Mr. Dick Grant was nominated and seconded. No other nominations received - elected.

Secretary

Nominations were called for Secretary. Mr. Brian Lloyd was nominated and seconded. No other nominations received - elected.

Treasurer

Nominations were called for Treasurer. Mr. Jim McHale was nominated and seconded. No other nominations received - elected.

Committee

Nominations were called for a committee of eight and the following people were nominated and seconded:-

- ✓ Ian Hamilton
- ✓ Bruce Stevens
- ✓ Peter Dent
- ✓ Malcolm Anderson
- ✓ Keith Sobels
- ✓ Phil Briggs
- ✓ Dick Gillespie
- ✓ Mrs. Gwen Collins
- ✓ Mrs. Phillipa Draverman
- ✓ Mrs. Mitchell
- ✓ Dr. Gwenifer Bernard

Even though more than the eight committee members were nominated for the committee, it was decided that we would consider them all as committee men.

Closure

Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Dr. Cutler for his efficient and helpful chairing of the meeting.

Dr. Cutler was requested to be patron & accepted.



The first committee meeting of those elected took place on 11th December, 1961 and it was decided to hold the first Sailing Day on the 13th January, 1962. A newsletter, our first 'Telldales', was sent to all those who attended the public meeting.

I.T.H.

HUNTER'S HILL JUNIOR SAILING CLUB

To those expressing interest at the Public Meeting on the question of formation of the above club.

We are informing you of the progress to date your Committee has made, in terms of our promise to you at the Public Meeting. Since being authorised to commence the Club all the officials have met almost weekly and several matters have been decided.

The most important decision has been that, as construction of a boat-house could be a protracted matter, we should commence operations without waiting for this. To this end we see no reason why we cannot commence sailing as a Club on Saturdays almost immediately.

Obviously to have organised training/sailing we must provide some sailing boats and have arranged to have some 4 or 5 immediately available - mainly "Sabots". We had in mind that there would be also some boats owned by various prospective members and would therefore be extremely interested in knowing just how many sailing boats could be brought along to the assembly point. Having no shed yet, obviously these boats would have to be taken back home by the owners at the conclusion of the sailing.

Certain problems cannot be resolved until several active sailing days have passed, so in the interests of speedy commencement we propose holding our first sailing day on Saturday morning next, 14/1/62. We will meet at the extreme end of The Point Road, known as Onions Point where there is launching space available. 10.00 a.m. is the time. It is quite possible that at this meeting we will have a surplus of enthusiasts and that all may not achieve a sail, but at least you will have the knowledge that we are commencing.

In our rules membership fees are laid down as follows:-

Senior Members	..	£3. 3. 0
Members under 18 years & over 14 years	..	£1. 1. 0
Members up to 14 years of age	..	10. 6

9

Below is set out a membership application form and we would like prospective members to complete one of these. More may be obtained at sailing meetings.

1961/62 Season

Enthusiasm overcame the lack of a clubhouse and sailing boats. Vacluse Sailing Club brought some of their boats over and prospective members arrived with their own existing boats. Sabots were to be the mainstay of this inaugural day. The earlier launching area of Angelo St was passed by and the site at Onions Point was the pick. This first 'Opening Day' was a great success.



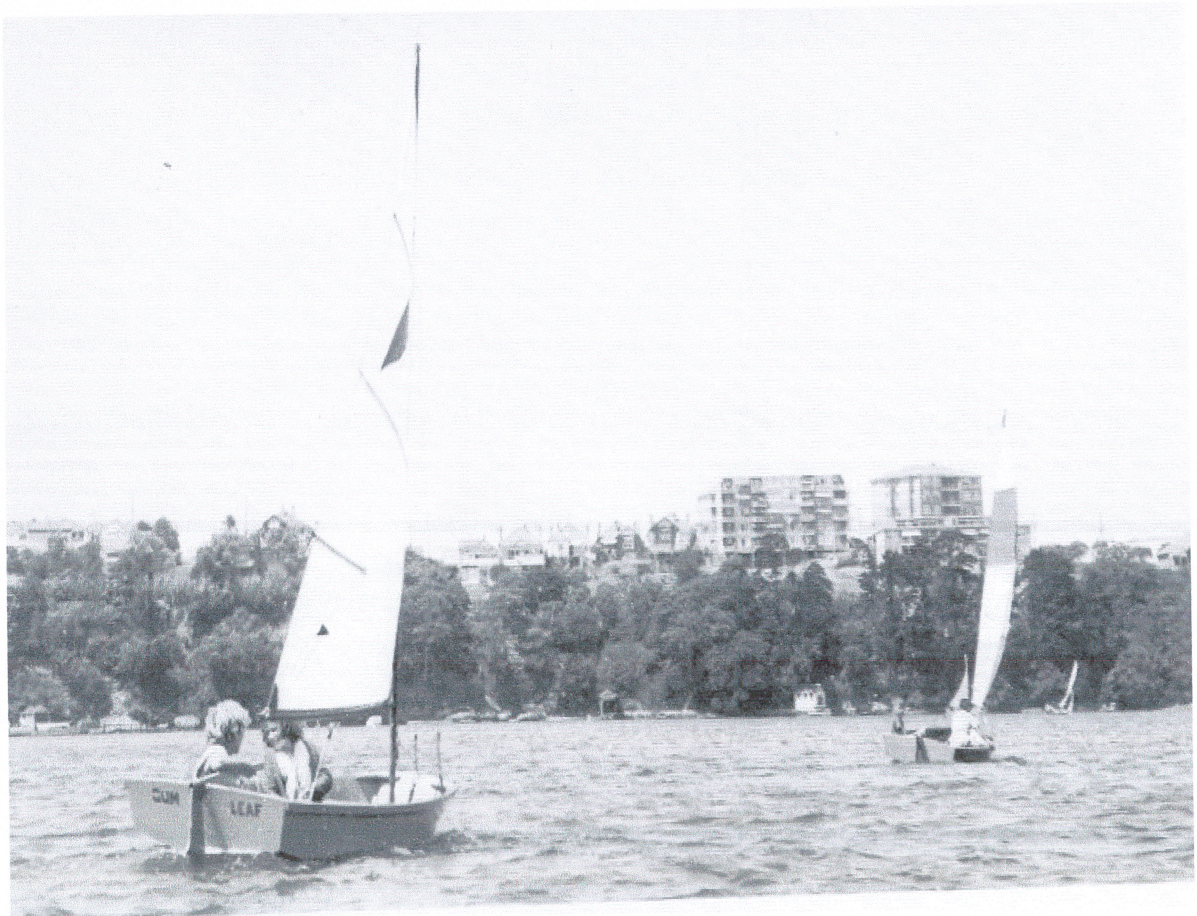
The Saturday morning club events were clearly a success and the momentum had begun to build as the second newsletter attests. Moves were begun to gain approval to build a clubhouse on the Onions Point site. The emphasis on training that this club is still so proud of was also evident from this its earliest stages. Lectures on sailing given by Bob Tait were held in the RSL hall on Friday evenings within a month of the opening day!

Records show those original boats from the 1961/62

1962 1961	
Sabots	
Booma	G. White
Gum nut	P. Merrington
It's a	S. Alvarez
Miss Lyn	N. Mitchell
Pedro	J. Dreverman
Pipi	P. Giovenelli
Sea Rover	B. Corlette
Sue	O. Atkins
Surprise	G. Smith
Tiki	P. Hilder
	G. Sobels

Other classes of boats sailed within the club (Hérons, Gwen 12's and others) but it was decided that the emphasis would be placed on promoting the Sabot and 12ft skiff class. The later was the new 'lightweight' skiff for the more senior youth. It was noted in the AGM minutes that one of the attractions of this class was that a "handy boy over 15 years of age , with some assistance, could make and put one in the water fo well under 200 pounds." New complete Sabots were to be had for 75 pounds.

By the end of this Inaugural season, the club boasted 150 members!



1962/63 Season

The need for a clubhouse was obvious to ensure that the club grew. Plans were drawn up and approved by Council in July 1962. Funds needed for this work saw major fund-raising events over the ensuing months.

HUNTER'S HILL JUNIOR SAILING CLUB BUILDING FUND APPEAL

10A Gale Street, Woolwich.
22nd October, 1962.

For many years past the youth of Hunter's Hill Municipality have been obliged to take their boats to other suburbs if they wished to take part in organised sailing. Having this in mind, some eighteen months ago a group of parents in the district met to discuss the formation of a Junior Sailing Club to provide a healthy sport for the young people, and to train them in the art of sailing and in the care and maintenance of their boats. In October of last year a public meeting was called which received a most enthusiastic response, some 130 young people and parents attending.

Sailing instruction was commenced on Saturday mornings and within seven weeks 140 members were enrolled and up to 20 boats sailing. These numbers have since increased and it is expected 40 boats will be sailing during this season. A number of experienced skiff skippers are acting as sailing masters, judges and starters.

The end of Point Road, Woolwich, was considered a most desirable site for a boatshed, sketch of which is attached, and permission to build has recently been granted. Membership fees and boat storage charges will provide sufficient funds for the running costs and maintenance — BUT WILL NOT BUILD A BOATSHED.

As this is a Junior Club catering for both boys and girls, we have undertaken not to use the boatshed as a social clubroom, and therefore any funds raised by the Committee will always be by individual effort. So far, by the holding of various functions the Committee have raised the sum of £700 toward the cost of building a suitable shed, but £3,500 more is needed to provide a building capable of housing the number of boats belonging to young people already members, or known as wishing to become members, when a shed is built.

The originators of the Club, and subsequently the elected Committee, have done everything possible to lay the foundations for a most needed and worthwhile amenity for the youth of our district.

OUR PLANS CANNOT COME TO REALITY WITHOUT YOUR ASSISTANCE —
PLEASE HELP WITH THE MOST GENEROUS DONATION YOU CAN AFFORD.

For the Committee of the
HUNTER'S HILL JUNIOR SAILING CLUB

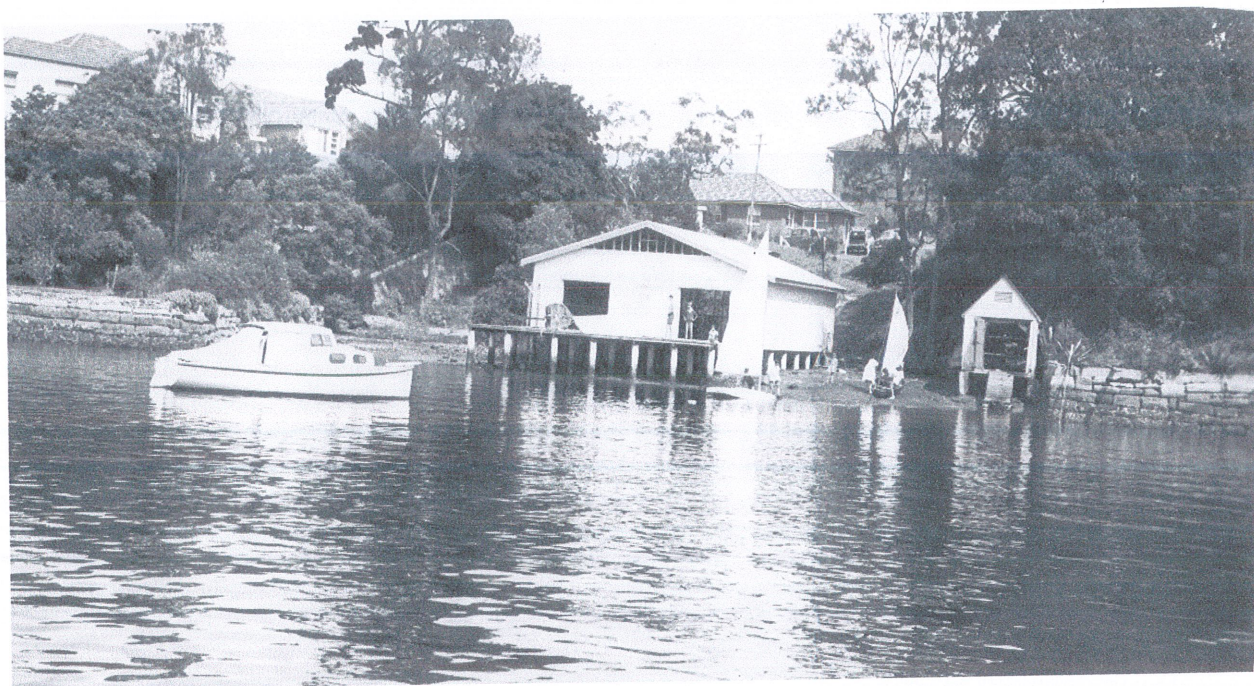
B. G. Lloyd
SECRETARY.

The Officers of the Club are:—

Patron: Dr. H. M. Cutler
President: R. F. Grant
Hon. Secretary: B. G. Lloyd
Hon. Treasurer: F. J. McHale

Committee: Dr. G. Bernard, Mesdames G. Collins, P. Dreverman, J. M. Mitchell, Messrs. M. J. Anderson, A. J. Atkins, P. H. Briggs, P. N. Dent, R. T. Gillespie, I. T. Hamilton, R. A. Smith, W. G. Smith K. Sobels and B. A. Stevens.

Construction took place during this season, the foundations and platform (flooring) completed by January 1963 and the walls, doors and roof by April.



Racking for boats was installed, accommodating 24 Sabots, 24 12 ft skiffs and 12 VJ's. This was completed by May and members boats could now be left at the club!

Records indicated that membership stood at 188 by the end of the season.

Stage 3 of the building (the toilet facilities... expensive!) was yet to be completed and funds were again needed for this. With some members and residents going guarentors, a bank loan was secured to cover the costs of these additions.

The club had achieved an enormous amount during this season. The boat register reflected a growing interest with 17 Sabots, 3 Twelve's, 8 VJ's, 4 Moths, 2 Gwen 12's and 2 other craft, 36 boats in all.¹⁴

1963/64 Season

The Rules and Constitution of the Club were passed in October 1963 and the new season commenced.

Building work on Stage 3 was completed by December 1963 to allow for the Official Opening to take place on Saturday February 29th, 1964. This was a truly gala occasion, the Clubhouse decked in bunting, the Mayor, Ald W. J. Thom in attendance to declared the Clubhouse open and set the celebratory race off to a start! A bronze plaque was unveiled to commemorate the event.



A Junior Committee was formed and went straight to work!

1st September 1966

The Secretary
M. H. J. S. C.,

a few of the teenage-members of the sailing club are wondering if permission might be granted to the Junior Committee to operate a small stall each Saturday between 9 and 11 am only for the sale of sweets, possibly shackles, lacing etc.

If granted this operation would not come into contact with the present canteen in any way and although the Junior Committee have not debated the question the writers intend to submit the proposition to the Junior Committee if permission is granted in principle.

Philippa Lindsay
Nick Masterman
Nancy Mitchell.

Over the season the Sailing By-laws were written and passed in April 1964.

Boat numbers had increased to 72! Ray Mainsbridge introduced the MJ class to the club and supplied the club with a rescue boat.

1965-1971

Through the second half of this decade the club expanded at a rapid rate. Boat registrations climbed every year from 55 or so in 1964/65 to just over 100 in the 1969/70.



Even in these early years Hunters Hill was performing with credit at regattas. As an example during the 1966/67 season at the Sabot Nationals Lyndall Coxon & Richard Dreverman won the Two-up Championships... this making Lyndall the first female sailor to win any national titles! In the One-ups that year a young Jeff Barker placed 2nd! Both¹⁷ these boats were built by Keith Dreverman.

This year also saw a new class, the Flying Eleven, 'on trail' at the club. In its first year Hunters Hill sailors excelled in championship events. "Swiftie" sailed by Peter Gardiner and Graham McKellar won the National Titles, the Botany Bay Championships, the Upper River Championships and were 3rd in the State Titles! "Brolga" sailed by Mark Anderson and Warren Hartwell took out the State Titles with "Miss Colleen" (Colleen and Ray Barker) taking 3rd place in the two majors.



To round out this great season, three Hunters Hill Juniors, Peter Shipway, Daryl Digman and Frank White, sailing in a 12 foot skiff, won that years High Schools Championship ahead of 193 starters!

Along with this success and growth came increasing pressure on the resources of the club, particularly space. The clubhouse was extended and the racking system re-designed on numerous occasions in order to fit in all that required storage. The senior and junior fleets had also been split, the Juniors sailing on Saturdays, the seniors on Sundays. This alleviated the pressure on rigging space but led to a steady decline in junior fleet over the next few seasons up to 1971.

By the end of its first ten years however, the conclusion was reached that a new site for the club was needed in order to accommodate everyone.



The club reported a membership of just less than 500 by the end of the 1969 season. Initially it was thought that the new site would be for just the seniors however as time went by and negotiations continued our current site was finally settled on. By the conclusion of the 10th season in 1971, after lengthy negotiations with council, the current site and plans were approved in principle, As this site allowed a clubhouse of adequate size for both junior and senior sailors the club fortunately remained unified.

(Extract from the 1971 Presidents Report to the AGM)

Building Committee Report.

After lengthy negotiations with Hunter's Hill Council for the resiting of our Clubhouse, we now have the plans approved, in principle, and should be in a position to begin construction adjacent to Clark's Point in the near future. We are very grateful to our Honorary Architect, Mr. Wal. Stellar, and our Honorary Engineer, Mr. Harry Burns, for the time and effort they have given to the project.

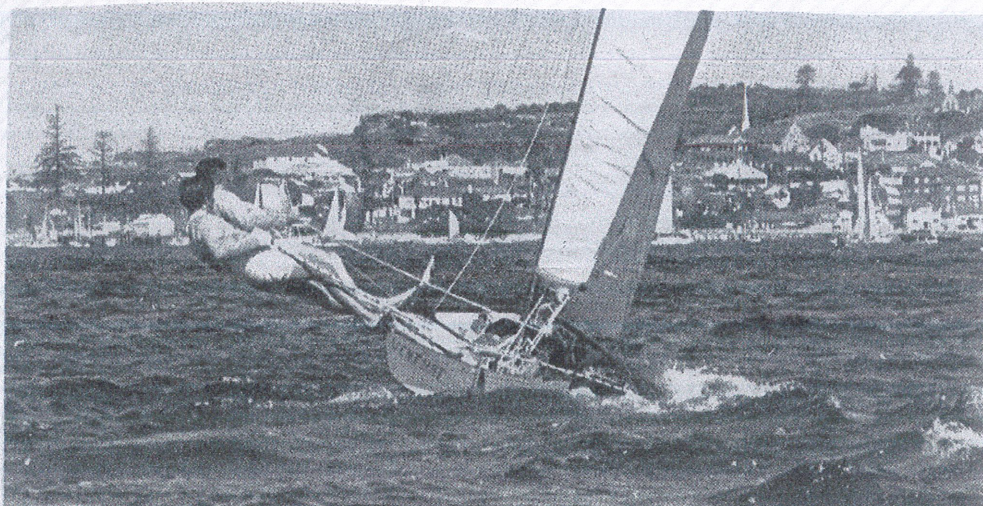
The new Clubhouse will accommodate approximately 140 boats, Shower and Change Rooms, Committee Room, Canteen and Kitchen, Social Activities will be catered for over the boat storage area, and as the Clubhouse faces the river, ample space will be available from which sailing events may be viewed.

Financing for this project will be by sale of our existing Clubhouse together with a loan from the Commonwealth Bank.

P. COWIE

President.

Sailing wise, the 10th season confirmed the Clubs continued success with the 12ft skiff "Tangara" sailed by Nick Masterman and D. Gould winning the Interdominion Championship and the Flying 11 "Moose" sailed by Lyndall & Michael Coxon winning the State Titles.



In Saturday's 12-footer championships on Sydney Harbour 15-year-old Daryl Dignam skipper's his father's boat, "Venture" and has Dad as for'ard hand. He lay second until over three-quarter's distance then went for a swim. A picture of Saturday's and Sunday's winner, Nicky Masterman's "Tangara", appears on page 7

TANGARA SCOOPS THE POOL

TANGARA (Nicky Masterman) scooped the pool in the first two heats of the 12ft skiff State Championship on Sydney Harbour last weekend.

Close behind her on points is Peter Gardner's *Twister*, who placed second in each race.

The opener on Saturday saw a close start into a 12-knot northerly, with *Tangara* edging to the front by the first mark, hotly pursued by *Twister*, *Venture* and *Wirong*.

Venture, sailed by son and father team, Daryl and Dennis Dignam, moved through to second on the ensuing reach, and the leaders thereafter held their places until just after the last mark. Here *Venture* was hit by a squirt

while setting an extra, capsized and fell back to fifth.

The Sunday race was sailed in very similar conditions with just a fraction more breeze. *Tangara* had the best of the start and drew steadily away from *Twister* and *Pol*. They finished in that order.

About the only casualties of the weekend were *Pol* in the first heat and *Aha II* in the second, both forced to withdraw after collisions resulting in broken bowsprits.

Saturday: 1. *Tangara* (N. Masterman); 2. *Twister* (P. Gardner); 3. *Wirong* (T. Denham); 4. *Aha II* (D. Griffiths); 5. *Venture* (D. Dignam); 6. *Rhubarb* (C. Wilmot). **Hcp:** 1. *Rhubarb*.

Sunday: 1. *Tangara*; 2. *Twister*; 3. *Pol* (M. Chapman); 4. *Min* (G. White); 5. *Shoestring* (D. Stevenson); 6. *Wirong* (T. Denham). **Hcp:** 1. *Tangara*.

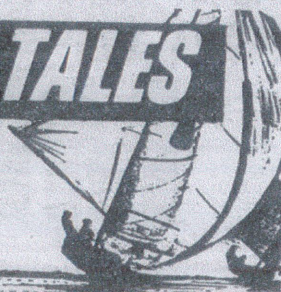
Phil Stevenson also started to work his magic with boat design. Allan White recollects that whilst most sailors or the time were happy to tinker with small changes to design or equipment or just copy what everyone else was doing, Stevo would come up with his own, radical changes... and he's still doing the it!



SPINNAKER TALES



**HARRY
HAYES**



The five races at Bowen have supplied five different winners, but consistency has put young Drummoyne skipper Graham MacKellar in a commanding position.

MacKellar was second yesterday in McKellar Sails and has a good points lead over Steve O'Rourke (Panther) and David McKay (Imperium).

Yesterday's winner was the youthful Belmont star Gary Bruniges in Viggers Shondell but Bruniges who was ill in the early part of the carnival can't win from his present lowly place.

At Auckland they've had three winners in three heats of the inter-Dom for 12ft skiffs and the position is open with two to go.

NSW's new champion Steve Kulmar has his Hunter's Hill boat Vagabond just ahead of club-mate Phil Stevenson in Walpurgis Wrath.

New Zealand reps, Lockwood Homes and PGH are next followed by Bruce Hewish of Vacluse in Axototl. Any one of these boats can win the title.

Hewish won yesterday's heat from PGH, Walpurgis Wrath, Nev Barker's Hustler and Vagabond.

1972- 1976

Construction on the new clubhouse commenced during the 1971/72 season with work directed by a Building Committee chaired by Dick Grant. The old clubhouse was sold to the Scouting movement and needed to be vacated by August, 1972 so the pressure was on.

By the end of the era at the old club, the 1971/72 season being the final season sailed from Onions Point, junior numbers had declined severely to just 15 regulars (in Sabots and MJ's), undoubtedly due to the need to sail these classes on Saturdays. Recognising this as a serious state of affairs Commodore Phil Briggs moved the junior sailing to Sunday mornings and enlisted helpers, in particular David Williams, to instruct these juniors during the morning.



Early days at the new club, November 1972



Michael Coxon won two consecutive Flying 11 National Titles in “Moose” in 1973 & 1974.

During 1976 past member Jenni Merrington came second in the Womens’ National Titles in Lasers and gained selection to represent Australia at the World Championships in Holland.



The 12ft Skiff Interdominion Championship was again won by a club members in 1974, "Vagabond" sailed by Steve and Paul Kulmar. (These two moved into 18ft Skiffs the following season and won the World and National Titles!).

Wednesday, 16th January, 1974

HIGH HONOUR FOR HUNTER'S HILL JUNIOR SAILING CLUB

Steven and Paul Kulmar fresh from winning the New South Wales State 12 ft. Skiff Championship in "Vagabond," have gone on to win the Interdominion 12 ft. Skiff Championship in Auckland, New Zealand.

With 2 wins a second and 2 fifths, "Lockwood Homes" of New Zealand was second and "Walfurgas Wrath" the other Hunter's Hill representative sailed by Phil Stevenson and John MacWilliams was third.

This Championship is contested each year between the 12 best skiffs from New Zealand and the 12 best skiffs from Australia. These skiffs are selected from the 80 skiffs contesting the New South Wales State Titles.

The Hunter's Hill Club wishes to congratulate the crew of "Vagabond" on their splendid performance and the crew of "Walfurgas Wrath" on their fine showing during this Championship.

Credit must go to Phil Stevenson designer and builder of "Walfurgas Wrath" a revolutionary design skiff, and to Les Kulmar, father of Steve and Paul, who built the improved "Vagabond" from this design.

It is interesting to note that Graham Mackellar sailing "McKellar Sails" has just won the Australian 16 ft. Skiff Title held at Bowen, Queensland.

Graham is a graduate of the Hunter's Hill Club, and before transferring to the Drummoyne 16 ft. Skiff Club, had a third in the Interdominion Title races in New Zealand in his 12 ft. skiff "Rampage." Congratulations on your Australian Title, Graham.

The Flying Eleven Division are at present defending their Australian Title. "Moose" sailed by Michael Coxon and Chris Woods is the present champion.

The first heat sailed at

Manly in yesterday's blustery conditions, resulted in a win for "Moose" Michael Coxon and his new F/Hand Paddy O'Brien and a second for "Deep Purple" also from Hunter's Hill sailed by Allan Broadbent and Kerry Stephens.

"Deep Purple" also won the Handicap event, further heats will be held this week.

The Hunter's Hill Junior Sailing Club is now pleased to announce that the first phase of their new Club House at Charlotte Street, Woolwich is now complete, and we are in a position to provide storage for any interested parties who wish to

sail any of the following classes of boats in the Club.

"Sabots", "Manly Juniors", "Flying Elevens", "Cherubs" or 12 ft. Skiffs.

Classes are held for junior members who wish to learn to sail and the Club provides rescue boats, hot snacks are available from the Canteen staffed by voluntary members, and change rooms with hot and cold showers are provided.

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best four heats to count. 'Vagabond' ended up winning by a fair margin from the best New Zealand boat, 'Miss Lockwood Homes' sailed by Wayne Eaton. The racing throughout the series was close.

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While the Kulmar brothers had a clear points lead going into the final heat, there were still three other boats that had a chance of winning. These were the Australian boats 'Axolot' sailed by sailmaker Bruce Hewish, 'Walfurgis Wrath' sailed by Phillip Stevenson and the New Zealand boat 'Miss Lockwood Homes'.

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three top scoring Australian boats set sails made by Bruce Hewish who has had a lot of success with the 12 s sails of late.

With two teams of twelve boats representing Australia and New Zealand, the title was not short on competition and the standard of sailing was high.

Results were: 1, 'Vagabond' (Aust) 4924 pts; 2, 'Miss Lockwood Homes' (NZ), 4623 pts; 3, 'Walfurgis Wrath' (Aust), 3766 pts; 4, 'Axoloti' (Aust), 3632 pts; 5, 'Onyx' (NZ), 3079 pts; 6, 'Morgan and Wacker Marine' (Aust) 2988 pts.

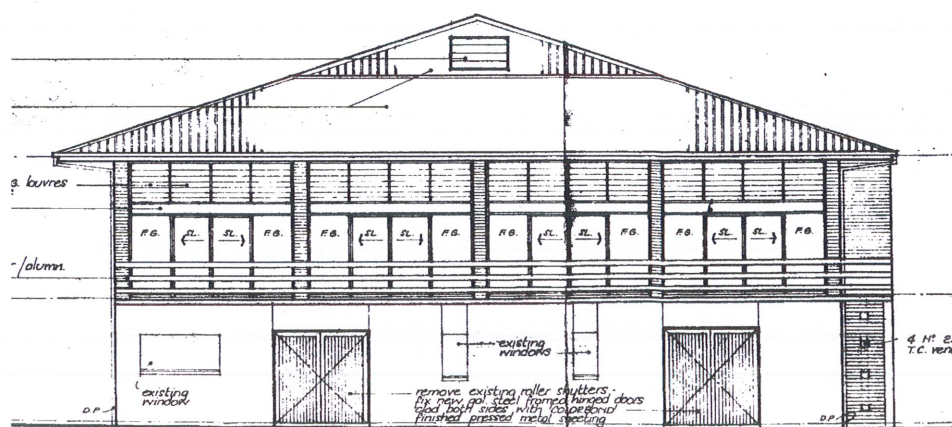
"THE WEEKLY TIMES"

Plans to construct the upper level of the Clubhouse were drawn up during 1975 and the process of consultation was begun. A building committee of Dick Grant, Keith Morrison, Vic Hume, and Keith Dreverman spent many hours bringing these plans to fruition.

2

Stage 2

1. Top Brickwork.	\$3,800.00	\$1440.00
	\$180/1000	
2. Roof. (Steel trawled for parget flooring)	\$200	\$1900.00
3. Windows \$4/ft ² <i>include (1)</i>		\$1200.00
4. Ceiling		\$500.00
5. Partition Walls. Bush.		\$200.00
Doors etc 8.		\$80.00
6. Toilets 3, built & tiled, 2 H.B.		\$200.00
Tiling (50 yds ²)		300.00
7. Plumbing. Toilets.		\$100.00
Kitchen		\$50.00
8 Railing. (100 ft)		\$200.00
9. Canteen Fixments, sink etc.		\$600.00
10 Painting		\$150.00
		\$6070.00
		<u>\$6500.00</u>



SOUTHERN ELEVATION
SCALE : 1 : 100

1977-1981

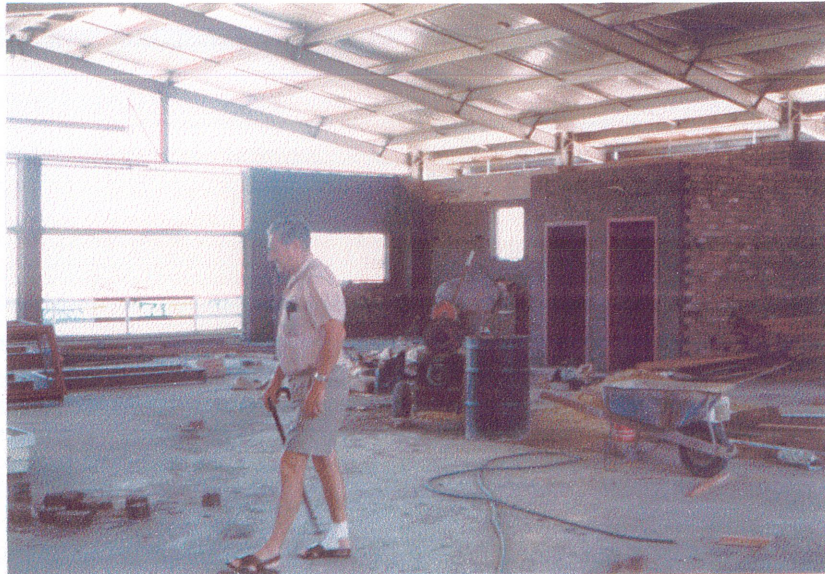
Towards the end of the 1970's, the 12ft Skiff class ceased at the club after flagging numbers. Mirrors commenced during the 1975-76 season. For a period, some sailing was again conducted on Saturday. Whilst this suited some, it was decided to revert to all sailing on Sundays during the 1977-78 season.

Construction of the upper storey became stalled as unforeseen difficulties arose, particularly with regard to the structural integrity of the concrete slab that would become the floor of the upper storey. Work did not finally get under way until 1980.

Sailing numbers during the later half of this decade were in the decline, perhaps as the issues of the upper deck consumed so much attention and often presented a grim view of the future. During the 1978-79 season junior sailing was again suffering with no Sabot fleet and only three MJ's. The Sabot fleet lay dormant until the 1987-88 season. The Laser class however was particularly popular and was officially welcomed at the club for the following season.

1982-1986

Building work on the upper level continued through the early '80's. By the end of the 1983-1984 season the Committee Room was complete and the toilets almost so.



By 1985 the stage and dance floor were completed and much of the plumbing work was completed. Carpet arrived thanks to Phil Briggs and the stainless steel kitchen benches were collected from Liverpool Hospital one Saturday morning thanks to the Drevernans.



The NS14 class began during the 1982-83 season. Manly Graduates (MG's) followed in 1984-85. It was also approved during that season that in addition to the MG's a yachting division be started, to race on Saturdays.

The Club hosted the Flying 11 National Titles during the 1983-1984 season.

NORTHERN STANDARD SPORT

Local club host to national titles

Budding yachtsmen from all over Australia will converge on Hunter's Hill early in the New Year, when the National Flying 11's titles are held on the Lane Cove

The Flying 11 is a high performance boat ideally suited for teenagers.

It was originally developed, some 20 years ago, as a training boat for those youngsters who aspired to enter the very popular 12 foot skiff class.

Hunter's Hill Club was the first club to adopt the Flying 11 and sponsor regular racing for the class, with the first two state championships going to Hunter's Hill boats.

The National Titles will consist of seven races and will be sailed over a triangular course (similar to that used for the America's Cup) at the junction of the Parramatta and Lane Cove rivers.

The course for each race will be about eight miles.

Clarkes Point Reserve, Woolwich, provides an

excellent vantage point for watching the races and first class barbecue and picnic facilities are provided.

In addition to the Flying 11, the Hunter's Hill club also sponsors racing each Sunday for Manly juniors, Mirror dinghies, Lasers and NS 14s.

Regular inter-club racing is held with the Greenwich Sailing Club.



• Flying 11's at Hunters Hill rigged up

Bowling

1987-1991

By the conclusion of the 1986-1987 season the upper level was 'virtually' completed. During 1988 the downstairs changerooms were enlarged and renovated. The club had become an incorporated body the previous year.

To The POINT with the Mayor of Hunters Hill



The Hunters Hill Sailing Club has been incorporated by the Corporate Affairs Commission of NSW as an Incorporated Association under the Associations Incorporation Act.

This action has transferred the personal responsibilities of the Club's Trustees for assets and liabilities of the Club to the Club itself, as though it were a registered company.

The retiring trustees, who

Sailing club change

held the license from Council for the Sailing Club building on Morts Reserve at Woolwich until 1990 are Messrs. Keith Dreverman, Vic Hume, Dick Grant Jim Atkins and Ian Hamilton.

These last two with John Merrington and the Late Gordon Sanderson were the original trustees, 25 years ago and all of the gentlemen I have named have given great service to the Club and to the youth of our community.

In relieving the trustees of their personal responsibility, it should be said that their service is recognised and appreciated by all.

— ALD D B B EDELMAN
MAYOR

Training continued during the season 1986-87 under the direction of Jenni Bonnitcha and Ben Nossiter. Phil Briggs continued this good work during the 1988-1989 season using, for the first time, training boats owned by the club. On water starts using the rescue boats were implemented during that season however this created quite an extra burden on the starter, Don Page.

In the Sailing news, the NS14 fleet topped the bill with an impressive 23 boats. Lasers regularly fielding 10 boat fleets. Sabots made a tentative return to the club during the 1987-1988 season in preparation for a full involvement the following year... this after an absence of nine seasons. These junior fleets did not immediately flourish, and it took until the 1989-1990 season before a fleet of seven boats began to sail consistently.

During this period Malcolm Page succeeded in winning the Nationals in both the MJ's and the F11's.



1992 – 1996

During the early '90's the ground work being laid in developing the junior fleets by Jenni and Don Bonnitcha for the Sabots and Greg Shaw and Bruce Walker in the MJ's began to take effect. New children and their families were attracted to the club such that by the end of the 1991-1992 season the Sabot fleet numbered 25 and the MJ's 6. The then Commodore recorded these prophetic words in his report of the season about these young sailors...
"May they all go on to bigger and better things"



Our new junior sailors took their first steps in representative sailing with Jonathon Bonnitcha and Tom Williams competing in the National Sabot Titles in Hobart and the State Titles during the '93-'94 season. Over the next few seasons the level of coaching and representative sailing by these juniors escalated. During the 1994-95 season Hunters Hill hosted the Sabot State Titles. The sabot fleet had reached just over 50 by the end of this season!



Sail titles a success

THE action was fast and furious when the State's top young sabot racers came face to face in the NSW Sabot Championships at Hunters Hill last weekend.

It was the first time Hunters Hill Sailing Club had hosted the titles and despite some wet weather, the event was hailed a great success.

Hunters Hill youngsters enjoyed outstanding success with one brother and sister combination finishing joint State champions.

Full details inside.

NORTHERN DISTRICT TIMES FEB 1 95

By the time the National Titles were held in Sydney during 1995-96 boats from the Hunters Hill fleet dominated the SNSW team (something that has become a common theme since then!). At these Nationals, Jonathon Bonnitcha won the senior title and sister Jacqui placed third in the junior fleet. To round out the season Jonathon also won the State titles as did Jacqui in the juniors!



... Jacqui Bonnitcha and Stephanie Morris sail to third place in the championships

Sibling sailors

BROTHER and sister combination Jonathan and Jacqui Bonnitcha have plenty to smile about after their success at the Motorola Cellular Australian Sabot Championship.

The Hunters Hill combination won the championship Sydney Harbor earlier in the month.

A record 253 children from all parts of Australia competed in 190 boats making up senior (for single handed sailing) and junior divisions.

Sailing singlehandedly, Jonathan won the senior division while Jacqui, along with crew Stephanie Morris, came third in the junior division.

Jonathan's secret for success in the championships:

"Good preparation and plenty of practice in the boat," Jonathan said. "It was certainly tough sailing in such a big fleet of boats; one mistake would mean losing 10 more places."

Other North Shore sailors to do well in the series include Pail Bonnitcha, James Daniels, Andrew Murray, C Tindall, Joe Daven, Andrew Lelliot and Cameron Baillie the seniors, and Andrew Stevenson, Ed Wynter, Jonathan Whitty, William Tomasetti, Tom Daven, Ed Daven, Sam Daniels, Sam Murray, Jonathan Laurie and Kate Stevens in the juniors.

Although NSW fared reasonably well, filling three of the top six places in the senior division, Southern Queensland won the teams' trophy by showing great consistency in depth.

During this period most of the other fleets at the club also grew. Many of the parents of the new juniors decided that they would buy a boat and go sailing themselves in the afternoon! The Flying 11 fleet re-formed and began to grow, and was set for an even more rapid expansion as the more senior Sabot and MJ sailors grew too large for their classes.



Facilities at the club continued to be improved. The move by the club to rigid inflatable boats to serve as rescue and training craft proved to be a master-stroke. These boats made the rescue operations (which had become a full-time pursuit with so many young beginner sailors!) a far safer and less damaging experience for all involved



The training for the junior sailors continued to develop during this period and became the envy of many a sailing club. Jenni Bonnitcha enlisted the help of many parents to divide-up the junior fleets and deliver appropriate training. The 'nippers' came into being, short course sailors grew in their skills and 'graduated' to the long course. The sailing camp became a highlight of the kids sailing year!

From this ...



To this ... in a few short years



1997 – 2001

The club's reputation had spread far and wide by the mid-'90's. A great many members came from outside the Hunters Hill municipality, Balmain providing a solid base and the Austin family travelling from their home in Kurrajong each week to sail at the club!

The benefits of having a large fleet of junior sailors within the club continued to be felt through this period. The Flying 11 fleet flourished with up to 20 boats in several seasons. As the more senior youth grew, the 420 class was introduced to the club and provided a suitable boat for them to sail.



New training initiatives constantly being adopted, the most successful undoubtedly being the concept of peer caching. The now senior youth took over the role of coaching the new, younger sailors. Being now generally more skilled and with 'fresher' knowledge of sailing Sabots than the 'grown-ups' these coaches have become highly effective in passing on their skills. Those learning have also enjoyed being coached by their older mates.



Peer coaches...



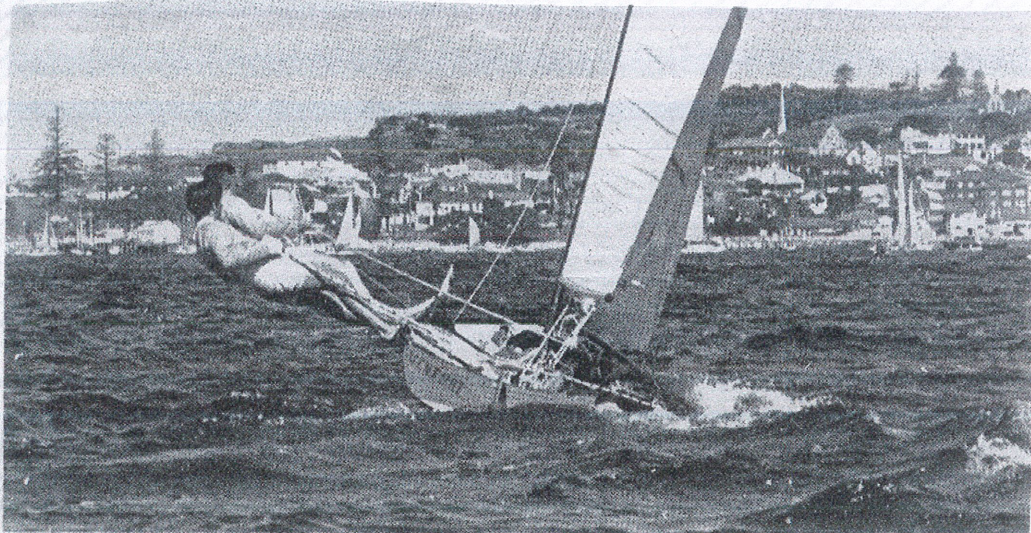
And the other coaches!

The year 2000 saw the need for further classes to be introduced into the club to ensure the now more senior youth continued to enjoy their sailing. The 29er and the Moth provide a perfect challenge for these sailors and have proved a worthy addition to the club.









In Saturday's 12-footer championships on Sydney Harbour 15-year-old Daryl Dignam skipper's his father's boat, "Venture" and has Dad as for'ard hand. He lay second until over three-quarter's distance then went for a swim. A picture of Saturday's and Sunday's winner, Nicky Masterman's "Tangara", appears on page 7

TANGARA SCOOPS THE POOL

TANGARA (Nicky Masterman) scooped the pool in the first two heats of the 12ft skiff State Championship on Sydney Harbour last weekend.

Close behind her on points is Peter Gardner's *Twister*, who placed second in each race.

The opener on Saturday saw a close start into a 12-knot northerly, with *Tangara* edging to the front by the first mark, hotly pursued by *Twister*, *Venture* and *Wirong*.

Venture, sailed by son and father team, Daryl and Dennis Dignam, moved through to second on the ensuing reach, and the leaders thereafter held their places until just after the last mark. Here *Venture* was hit by a squirt

while setting an extra, capsized and fell back to fifth.

The Sunday race was sailed in very similar conditions with just a fraction more breeze. *Tangara* had the best of the start and drew steadily away from *Twister* and *Pol*. They finished in that order.

About the only casualties of the weekend were *Pol* in the first heat and *Aha II* in the second, both forced to withdraw after collisions resulting in broken bowsprits.

Saturday: 1, *Tangara* (N. Masterman); 2, *Twister* (P. Gardner); 3, *Wirong* (T. Denham); 4, *Aha II* (D. Griffiths); 5, *Venture* (D. Dignam); 6, *Rhubarb* (C. Wilmot). **Hep:** 1, *Rhubarb*.

Sunday: 1, *Tangara*; 2, *Twister*; 3, *Pol* (M. Chapman); 4, *Min* (G. White); 5, *Shoestring* (D. Stevenson); 6, *Wirong* (T. Denham). **Hep:** 1, *Tangara*.

HIGH HONOUR FOR HUNTER'S HILL JUNIOR SAILING CLUB

Steven and Paul Kulmar fresh from winning the New South Wales State 12 ft. Skiff Championship in "Vagabond," have gone on to win the Interdominion 12 ft. Skiff Championship in Auckland, New Zealand.

With 2 wins a second and 2 fifths, "Lockwood Homes" of New Zealand was second and "Walfurgas Wrath" the other Hunter's Hill representative sailed by Phil Stevenson and John MacWilliams was third.

This Championship is contested each year between the 12 best skiffs from New Zealand and the 12 best skiffs from Australia. These skiffs are selected from the 80 skiffs contesting the New South Wales State Titles.

The Hunter's Hill Club wishes to congratulate the crew of "Vagabond" on their splendid performance and the crew of "Walfurgas Wrath" on their fine showing during this Championship.

Credit must go to Phil Stevenson designer and builder of "Walfurgas Wrath" a revolutionary design skiff, and to Les Kulmar, father of Steve and Paul, who built the improved "Vagabond" from this design.

It is interesting to note that Graham Mackellar sailing "McKellar Sails" has just won the Australian 16 ft. Skiff Title held at Bowen, Queensland.

Graham is a graduate of the Hunter's Hill Club, and before transferring to the Drummoyne 16 ft. Skiff Club, had a third in the Interdominion Title races in New Zealand in his 12 ft. skiff "Rampage." Congratulations on your Australian Title, Graham.

The Flying Eleven Division are at present defending their Australian Title. "Moose" sailed by Michael Coxon and Chris Woods is the present champion.

The first heat sailed at

sail any of the following classes of boats in the Club.

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Manly in yesterday's blustery conditions, resulted in a win for "Moose" Michael Coxon and his new F/Hand Paddy O'Brien and a second for "Deep Purple" also from Hunter's Hill sailed by Allan Broadbent and Kerry Stephens.

"Deep Purple" also won the Handicap event, further heats will be held this week.

The Hunter's Hill Junior Sailing Club is now pleased to announce that the first phase of their new Club House at Charlotte Street, Woolwich is now complete, and we are in a position to provide storage for any interested parties who wish to

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